MARCH 2015

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Lord of the Powers be with us, for in time of distress we have no other help but You...

Church Services

| Saturdays  | Great Vespers | 6:00 pm |
| Sundays    | Orthros      | 8:45 am |
|           | Divine Liturgy | 10:00 am |
| Weekdays   | Orthros      | 9:00 am |
|           | Divine Liturgy | 10:00 am |
| Σάββατα    | Μεγάς Εσπερινός | 6:00 μμ |
| Κυριακές  | Ορθρος | 8:45 πμ |
|           | Θεία Λειτουργία | 10:00 πμ |
| Καθημερινές | Ορθρος | 9:00 πμ |
|           | Θεία Λειτουργία | 10:00 πμ |
PARISH COUNCIL

Executive Board
John Kolentsas, President
Joanna Stellakis, Vice President—Administration
Theodoros Ntakoulas, Vice President—House & Grounds
George Terzakis, Treasurer
Ethel Savas, Secretary

Members of the Board
George Alexis  Nicholas Alexiou  Konstantia Boutas
Dino Contantinou  John Papadopoulos  Stephen Passias
Spyros Savas  Themi Stamboulidis  Philip Tsionis

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Executive Board
Heido Barbas, President
Tina Tsarhopoulos, 2nd Vice President
Pegi Ciulla, Recording Secretary
Tina Boutas, Corresponding Secretary
Lori Stasiewski, Treasurer
Erlinda Anthony, Assistant Treasurer
Despina Papadopoulos, Advisor

Members of the Board
Helen Holevas  Ann Marie Horne  Liz Karolemeas
Penny Kazis  Ethel Savas  Sophia Terzakis

EMAILS
Father Anthony............................ priest@annunciationbrockton.org
                      office@annunciationbrockton.org

OTHER MINISTRIES

Sunday School
Tina Boutas  Dina Coon
Rhoda Economos

Greek School
Ioanna Andreopoulou
Katerina Tsiantoulas  Tina Boutas

GOYA
Jon Buterbaugh

JOY & HOPE
Irena Mroz
Paula Tsitsopoulop

OPA! Group
Pegi Ciulla

Koliva
Ladies Philoptochochos

Coffee Hour
Tina Boutas

Shut-In Visitations
Ladies Philoptochochos

Basketball
Stephen Passias

Dance Group
Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

Junior Choir
Heidi Mason
Corinne Mason

Oratorical Festival
Rhoda Economos

Bookstore
Joanna Stellakas
Linda Sakelaris Poole
Stephen Savas
Chris Kotsiopoulos

Webmaster
George Theodossiou
helpdesk@annunciationbrockton.org
Beloved in Christ, we have again entered the soul-cleansing and blessed Fast of Great Lent. In the midst of the bleakness of winter, we have entered the *Lenten Spring* as our souls are awakened from the deep sleep of spiritual neglect and indifference. As we move toward Holy Pascha, our souls begin to see the light of the Resurrection of Christ emanating from the Life-Giving Tomb. I pray that all of us will make this a very meaningful and fruitful Lenten period, so that we may be spiritually and physically prepared to participate in the Holy Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. As with everything in life, the effort that we put into our Lenten journey will be proportionate to the benefits we will receive.

One may ask the question, “Why bother?” Why do we need to have these annual commemorations, and the burdensome Lenten preparation for Pascha? Well, let us set aside the Church and Her Holy Tradition for a moment and have a look at the secular world. Observe any modern nation and you will see multiple annual commemorations of meaningful events. These take place in order for nations to remember significant historical events that typically led to victory over foreign oppressors, and independence from foreign domination. Besides national commemorations, consider the celebration of birthdays of our relatives and friends. Since our day of birth is an obvious significant event in our lives, we feel the need to annually celebrate, or at least recognize each other’s special day. Regarding death, even those who are not very religious still make it a point to remember their loved ones on the anniversary of their death, their birthdays, and on Memorial Day.

In society in general, important events require a fair amount of preparation and planning. Weddings, milestone anniversaries, and retirements are obvious examples. Even with those who have made Christmas a completely secular observance, we still see a sense of preparation for this annual event, even if only on the level of decoration of homes and baking special treats.

Now if we agree that all of the above are important celebrations in the secular world, would it not seem logical that we should annually remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Since we Orthodox believe that these are the greatest events in the history of humanity, do they not deserve an appropriate period and method of preparation? Yes, they most certainly do!

This is why, beloved in Christ, our holy Church has given us this great gift of Lent for our spiritual benefit. In order to prepare for the “marathon” of Holy Week and Pascha, we need to go through a period of spiritual exercise, or *askesis*. A serious athlete would never try to compete in a sport without proper training and preparation, if he/she expects to succeed. The focused student would not attempt to pass a course with an excellent mark if not properly prepared. A farmer who desires an abundant and rich harvest, must work hard at preparing the land and nurturing it along. Similarly, the focused Orthodox Christian has a very good reason for embarking on the annual Lenten journey, which leads to the Cross and the Tomb.

Another question that may be asked is, “What exactly is the benefit of a true Lenten experience?” Let us recall that during the three preparatory weeks prior to Great Lent, the Church presents us with the themes of *humility, forgiveness*, and *repentance*. These are the fruits of Great Lent. If we are serious about our Lenten experience, we will seek these virtues in our lives. If we can reach these goals and try to sustain them throughout the year, then we are living a true Christian life that leads toward salvation and the kingdom of heaven. The tools at our disposal are *well known* to all of us, but unfortunately, *highly ignored* by many. These are *prayer*, *fasting*, *charitable works*, *participation in the sacraments of Confession and Communion*, and *regular Sunday church attendance*, as well as *weekly Lenten services whenever possible*. By doing these things with a clear understanding of their potential benefits, Lent will then become a *joyful* season that we look forward to, and not the burden that some make it to be. But remember, being human we are not perfect and will easily fall. This is another important reason why the Lenten journey is retaken year after year.

If we can begin to view Great Lent as a *joyful spiritual journey* that reconciles and unites us to God, we will then comprehend the importance of this sacred time of the liturgical year. The final goal of this spiritual journey is sharing in the death and resurrection of our Lord in order to be spiritually renewed. Each Holy Week and Pascha we relive the reality of the mystery of baptism, through our participation in the salvific events in the last days of Christ’s life on earth.

May God grant all of you the fruits of Great Lent through your anticipated participation. If you never have in the past, start small, but most importantly, start!

In Christ,

+Fr. Anthony
The True Nature of Fasting

Taken from The Lenten Triodion by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, St. Tikhon’s Seminary Press, 1999.

What do we find, then, in this book of preparation that we term the Lenten Triodion? It can most briefly be described as the ‘book of the fast.’ Just as the children of Israel ate the ‘bread of affliction’ (Deut. 16:3) in preparation for the Passover, so Christians prepare themselves for the celebration of the New Passover by observing a fast. But what is meant by this word ‘fast’ (‘nisteia’)? Here the utmost care is needed, so as to preserve a proper balance between the outward and the inward. On the outward level fasting involves physical abstinence from food and drink, and without such exterior abstinence a full and true fast cannot be kept; yet the rules about eating and drinking must never be treated as an end in themselves, for ascetic fasting has always an inward and unseen purpose. Man is a unity of body and soul, ‘a living creature fashioned from natures visible and invisible,’ in the words of the Triodion; and our ascetic fasting should therefore involve both these natures at once. The tendency to over-emphasize external rules about food in a legalistic way, and the opposite tendency to scorn these rules as outdated and unnecessary, are both alike to be deplored as a betrayal of true Orthodoxy. In both cases the proper balance between the outward and inward has been impaired…

The primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God. If practiced seriously, the Lenten abstinence from food – particularly in the opening days – involves a considerable measure of real hunger, and also a feeling of tiredness and physical exhaustion. The purpose of this is to lead us in turn to a sense of inward brokenness and contrition; to bring us, that is, to the point where we appreciate the full force of Christ’s statement, ‘Without Me you can do nothing’ (John 15:5)… Such is the function of the hunger and the tiredness: to make us ‘poor in spirit,’ aware of our helplessness and of our dependence on God’s aid.

Yet it would be misleading to speak only of this element of weariness and hunger. Abstinence leads, not merely to this, but also to a sense of lightness, wakefulness, freedom and joy. Even if the fast proves debilitating at first, afterwards we find that it enables us to sleep less, to think more clearly, and to work more decisively. As many doctors acknowledge, periodical fasts contribute to bodily hygiene. While involving genuine self-denial, fasting does not seek to do violence to our body but rather to restore it to health and equilibrium. Most of us in the Western world habitually eat more than we need. Fasting liberates our body from the burden of excessive weight and makes it a willing partner in the task of prayer, alert and responsive to the voice of the Spirit…

If it is important not to overlook the physical requirements of fasting, it is even more important not to overlook its inward significance. Fasting is not a mere matter of diet. It is moral as well as physical. True fasting is to be converted in heart and will; it is to return to God, to come home like the Prodigal to our Father’s house. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, it means ‘abstinence not only from food but from sins.’ ‘The fast,’ he insists, ‘should be kept not by the mouth alone but also by the eye, the ear, the feet, the hands and all the members of the body’… It is useless to fast from food, protests St. Basil, and yet to indulge in cruel criticism and slander: ‘You do not eat meat, but you devour your brother’…

The inner significance of fasting is best summed up in the triad: prayer, fasting, almsgiving. Divorced from prayer and from the reception of the holy sacraments, unaccompanied by acts of compassion, our fasting becomes pharisaical or even demonic. It leads not to contrition and joyfulness, but to pride, inward tension and irritability…

Always in our acts of abstinence we should keep in mind St. Paul’s admonition not to condemn others who fast less strictly: ‘Let not him who abstains pass judgement on him who eats’ (Rom. 14:3). Equally, we remember Christ’s condemnation of outward display in prayer, fasting or almsgiving (Matt. 6:1-18). Both these Scriptural passages are often recalled in the Triodion:

Consider well, my soul: dost thou fast? Then despise not thy neighbour.
Dost thou abstain from food? Condemn not thy brother.
Come, let us cleanse ourselves by almsgiving and acts of mercy to the poor, not sounding a trumpet or making a show of our charity.
Let not our left hand know what our right hand is doing.
Let not vainglory scatter the fruit of our almsgiving; but in secret let us call on Him that knows all secrets.
Father, forgive us our trespasses, for Thou lovest mankind…
Fasting Guidelines for Great Lent

As we enter the second week of Great Lent, let us be reminded that Lent is not about extreme legalism and blindly following guidelines – it is much more than that. This is clearly illustrated in The True Nature of Fasting, left, by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of Diokleia in Great Britain, a well-loved and respected hierarch and theologian of the Orthodox Church. I had shared this article in the bulletin a few years ago. Please make it a point to read this very enlightening entry.

As a review of the traditional Lenten fasting guidelines of the Church, we offer the following:

**Great Lent**

**Weekdays of Lent** – Strict fast from all animal products including fish, all alcoholic beverages, and olive oil (vegetable/seed oil may be substituted if desired).

**Exceptions:** Please refer to your ecclesiastical calendar for days when wine, oil, and fish are permitted.

**Weekends of Lent** – Wine (all alcoholic beverages) and olive oil are permitted.

**Note:** Throughout the Fast, shellfish is permitted daily. Also, people with certain health conditions, as well as growing children, and pregnant and nursing mothers, need to follow a modified fast.

*Please remember* that the Church always presents the *ideal* method of fasting as a *starting point*. Each Orthodox Christian should prayerfully approach the subject of fasting and seek the guidance of his/her spiritual father. In addition, our fasting must include *intensified prayer*, *increased church attendance*, and *charitable works and almsgiving*, so that our fasting is not in vain.

**In Appreciation**

We would like to express gratitude to our JOY & HOPE advisors, Irene Mroz and Paula Tsitsopoulos, volunteer Pegi Ciulla and the many other volunteers, donors, and sponsors for all the planning and coordination of this year’s *Have-A-Heart Luncheon*.

We would also especially like to thank our dance group which again performed so beautifully.

May God bless all of you for this annual philanthropic endeavor to benefit the *Hellenic Cardiac Fund*.

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**Confession Schedule During Lent**

Fr. Anthony will be available for confessions during Great Lent as follows:

- After each weekday evening service, *except* Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies
- After Saturday evening Vespers (year-round)
- During office hours by appointment (year-round)

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**Lenten Suppers**

As has become our tradition, we are again offering Lenten suppers after each Wednesday afternoon Presanctified Liturgy, which also includes a short video presentation during the supper. Every year, one of our parish ministries hosts each week’s supper.

We would like to again invite our various parish ministries to participate. This needs to be coordinated through the church office, so please call the office with the desired date. All that’s needed are Lenten food and dessert items containing no animal products, and non-alcoholic beverages. Please refer to the entry in this edition regarding Lenten fasting guidelines for more information.
**2015 Floral Needs**

Again this year, we would like to solicit donations for the decoration of the icons for all major feast days of Christ and the Theotokos. This is a blessed way to participate in these major feasts of the Church for the health and well-being of your families, or in blessed memory of a loved one. The cost of decorating an icon is $60. To sponsor the decoration of one or more of these festal icons, please call the office directly during the week. Please note that icons that have already been taken have been excluded from the list. Also included in this listing are floral needs for Great Lent and Holy Week.

**Feasts of Christ & the Theotokos**

- 5/21 – Ascension
- 5/31 – Pentecost
- 8/6 – Transfiguration
- 8/15 – Dormition of the Theotokos (festal icon-$60, plus an arrangement for large iconostasis icon, $75)
- 9/14 – Elevation of the Holy Cross
- 11/21 – Entrance of the Theotokos
- 1/6/2016 – Holy Theophany

**Great Lent**

- Salutations to the Theotokos – 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Friday – $50
- Veneration of the Holy Cross – 3/15 (approx. 400 stems, price to be determined)

**Holy Week**

- Palm strips for palm crosses – $80
- Palm arrangements for Royal Gate – $45 each
- Palm arrangements for Soleas – $55 each
- Bay laurel leaves for Palm Sunday & Holy Saturday – $100
- Icon of Nymphios – $90
- Icon of Mystical Supper – $25
- Wreath for Holy Cross - $150
- Icon of Resurrection - $80
- Banner (lavaron) of Resurrection - $100

We thank all our donors in advance, and ask God’s blessings upon them. Please note that as usual, donors will be acknowledged in the bulletin at the appropriate time.

**Receiving the Orthodox Observer?**

Are you receiving your copy of the Orthodox Observer newspaper, which comes with your membership?

If not, please contact the office via email at office@annunciationbrockton.org, or call 508-559-0910.

**Meetings & Activities During Lent**

Please remember that during the subsequent weeks of Great Lent, meetings and activities may only take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, due to the regularly scheduled Lenten services each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of the Fast. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation.

**Service Cancellations**

For those of you who are not on the church’s listserv to receive automatic email announcements, please remember that you can check for service cancellations using the church’s voicemail system.

If you call outside of office hours, please listen to the menu and select #5 for the listing of church services for the current week. This message will always be updated regarding cancellations.

Please note that a decision may not be made until late afternoon for an evening service, or early morning for a morning service, so please double-check before preparing to leave for church.
Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines. Also, please refer to the bulletin entry regarding Great Lent for further guidance on the Fast.

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>Sunday of Orthodoxy</td>
<td>Great Compline 7 pm</td>
<td>9th Hour 5:15 pm, Presanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm followed by Lenten Supper</td>
<td>9th Hr. 9:45 am, Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>9th Hr. 9:45 am, Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>Τής Ορθοδοξίας</td>
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<td>Salutations to the Theotokos 7 pm</td>
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<td>Lenten Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas</td>
<td>Great Compline 7 pm</td>
<td>Parish Council 6 pm</td>
<td>9th Hour 5:15 pm, Presanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm followed by Lenten Supper</td>
<td>9th Hr. 9:45 am, Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>Τού Αγ. Γρηγορίου τού Παλαμᾶ</td>
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<td>Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross</td>
<td>Great Compline 7 pm</td>
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<td>9th Hour 5:15 pm, Presanctified Liturgy 5:30 pm followed by Lenten Supper</td>
<td>9th Hr. 9:45 am, Presanctified Liturgy 10 am</td>
<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>Τῆς Σκοερο-προσκύνησεως</td>
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<td>Sunday of St. John Climacus</td>
<td>Great Vespers of the Annunciation 7 pm</td>
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<td>Annunciation of the Theotokos Orthros &amp; Lit.</td>
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<td>Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt</td>
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<td>(Fr. Anthony on pilgrimage through 3/31 - no services this evening)</td>
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Notes:
- Fr. Anthony on pilgrimage through 3/31 - no services this evening.
SACRAMENTS & DONATIONS

Funerals
1/24 – Ruth Capernaros
2/13 – Nicholas Droukas
2/24—Charles (Efstratios) Aftosmes

Donations
Ilias and Christine Potsis, IMO of Areti Potsis, one case of altar candles.
Professor & Mrs. Peter Karavites, all floral donations for the Feast of the Annunciation

Memorial Donations
In memory of Aristofanis Krikis, $710
In memory of Fotis Karavites, $100
In memory of Ruth Capernaros, $75
Senator Thomas Kennedy, in honor of Christos Tsaganis, $50
Mr. & Mrs. Moftah El Ghadi, IMO Elisavet Ventas, $100
Peter Tsokanis, IMO Steve Serevetas, $50
Penny Kazis, IMO Steve Serevetas, $50
Tom, Fontini & Theodora Psilekaris, IMO parents Demetrios & Ourania Psilekaris,$300
Connie Spiros, IMO William Vellios, $100

Do not think only about what to eat, what to wear, how large a house you will build. Knock on the doors of the poor, the sick, the orphans.

Prefer more the houses of the sad rather than happy. If you do good works, you will have a large reward from God. You will be made worthy to see miracles, and in the other life you will have endless jubilation.

—St. George Karslides
NEW PARISH SOFTWARE

Dear Parishioners of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church,

Our Church has recently installed a new Parish Software System that will enable us to process data and keep more accurate records to better serve the needs of our church and members.

In order for our church to receive the full benefit of this program we need your help in providing us with current information for you and your family members. Please include any member of your family who has graduated from school and attends our church or may be living in the area.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the Church office at your earliest convenience, either by mailing it to 457 Oak St, Brockton, MA 02301, or emailing it to office@annunciationbrockton.org, or by visiting the office.

Thank you for your cooperation,
The Annunciation Parish Council

<table>
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<th>QUESTIONNAIRE</th>
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<td>Name _____________________  Baptismal Name _____________________</td>
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<td>Spouse Phone ____________________  Mobile ____________________</td>
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<td>Occupation (optional) ____________________________________________________________________</td>
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<td>Church Ministries that I am affiliated with (list all ministries):</td>
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<td>Church Ministries that I would like to join:</td>
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Thanks everyone for the fantastic response to this request. If you haven’t sent in your form, do so today!
Parish Questionnaire, continued

Children under the age of 21:

Name _____________________  Baptismal Name ____________________________________________
Age _______________________  Birthdate _________________________________________________
Email address (optional) _________________________________________________________________
Affiliated Church Ministries: ____________________________________________________________

Name _____________________  Baptismal Name ____________________________________________
Age _______________________  Birthdate _________________________________________________
Email address (optional) _________________________________________________________________
Affiliated Church Ministries: ____________________________________________________________

Children who have graduated school and are attending our Church:

Name _____________________  Baptismal Name ____________________________________________
Age _______________________  Birthdate _________________________________________________
Email address (optional) _________________________________________________________________
Affiliated Church Ministries: ____________________________________________________________

Please use these lines for additional information.

Message from Our Parish Council President

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Liz Karolemeas as our parish’s new office manager. Liz comes to this position with the necessary credentials and passion to serve our community effectively. Let’s all work together with a positive attitude.

This has been an unprecedented winter of historical snowfall, but spring is around the corner with promised sunshine, and mild temperatures will prevail.

We are approaching the 100th anniversary of the establishment of our parish, in 1916. Let us celebrate and rejoice together with passion and enthusiasm. We will keep you informed of all events as we prepare for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Remember, we are all one big family with one mission: preserve the present and pave the road for the future.

Please call me with any questions at 508-584-0030.

Sincerely,

John Kolentsas
Parish Council President
## 2015 Calendar of Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lenten Luncheon</td>
<td>Sunday, March 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Vespers &amp; Philoptochos Reception</td>
<td>Tuesday, March 24</td>
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<td>Greek Independence Day Celebration</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 25</td>
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<td>Greek Independence Day Program</td>
<td>Sunday, March 29</td>
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<td>Spring General Assembly</td>
<td>Sunday, April 19</td>
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<td>Independence Day Parade</td>
<td>Sunday, April 26</td>
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<td>Greek Music Concert</td>
<td>Saturday, May 2</td>
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<td>182 Hungry Friends Dinner</td>
<td>Thursday, May 7</td>
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<td>Philoptochos Food Festival</td>
<td>Saturday, May 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School Graduation</td>
<td>Sunday, May 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School Graduation</td>
<td>Sunday, May 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek School Graduation TBA</td>
<td>Sunday, June 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Food Festival</td>
<td>Thursday, Sept. 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, Sept. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday, Sept. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday, Sept. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahepa Dance</td>
<td>Saturday, Nov. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall General Assembly</td>
<td>Sunday, Nov. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Council Oath of Office &amp; Election of Officers</td>
<td>Sunday, Dec. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Eve Centennial Celebration</td>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2015 Parish Council Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>(no meetings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Αρχιεπισκοπική Εγκύκλιος για την Αγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή - 23 Φεβρουαρίου 2015

Προσφιλές Αδελφές και Αδελφές εν Χριστῷ,

Στούς θυμός και τις άκολουθίες της περιόδου του Τετάρτου και στην έναρξη αύριος της Ιεράς περιόδου της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής, καλουμένως σε μετάνοια. Καλύπτεται να σταθούμε ένωστον του Θεού με την ταυτότητά του Τελώνου. Καλούμεθα να ἐπιστήμουμε στό κατοικήτηρι του και την ευπλογική ἀναγκαιότητα του θάνατος του θάνατος του Ερώστου Κορίνθους. Αντιμετωπίζουμε τις αίτιες της άκρα πράξεως μας προς τον Θεό και την ανάγκη μας για τό μέγα Έλεος Του. Είναι πράγματι ἐποχή μετανοίας καθώς προετοιμαζόμεθα να δοκιμάζουμε και να ἀναληφθούμε διὰ ὅσα ἔχουμε γίνει για μάς διὰ τόν Κυρίον μας, θρησκευτικό.

Αὐτή η σοφική και στοχαστική πορεία δεν εἶναι πορεία ἀπελπισίας. Δὲν πρόκειται για περίοδον ἀπαρχήν ἡ λύπη ο ἅμως δόξα καὶ ἄγχος. Ἡ Ἁγία και Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή εἶναι περίοδος ἄνακάντεσις στήν ὅπως ἡ μετάνοια συνδέεται από συγγνώμη καὶ θέρμη, γεννὰ ἐλπίδα, ἐνσώη τήν πίστη μας καὶ μᾶς ἀνέγκη σε ἄνθρωπο καὶ κόσμο ἑαυτό.

Πρῶτον, γνωρίζουμε μέσα ἀπὸ τό Εὐαγγέλιο ὅτι ἡ ἐκλογή τῶν μετανοιών λαμβάνεται συγγνώμη καὶ θέρμη. Ἡ εἰκόνα τῆς Ἀνάργυρους τοῦ Τελώνου ἡ ὅπως ἐπιφάνεισθηκε στήν κραυγή τοῦ, ὁ Θεός, Ἡλάθητε μη τῷ ἀμαρτωλῷ (Lουκ. 18:13), ἀναγνώρισθηκα διὰ τόν Θεό, καὶ ἡ ἀμαρτίας τοῦ συγχωρήθηκαν. ὁ Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Βαπτιστής ἔκρισε ἐναντίον αὐτῶν ἡ μετάνοιας ἐν συνέλευσις ἂνθρωπος (Ματθ. 3:2), καλώντως τούς ἀνθρώπους νὰ προετοιμασθοῦν νὰ ἐποδεχθοῦν τόν Ἐνα Εἰμινόν ὁ Οπωδίς ἐρωτήθη ἐν χάρι καὶ ἀλληθεία. ὁ Σταυρός τοῦ Κυρίου μας εἶναι ἐνώπιον μας, προφανές τούς τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Θεοῦ σωτηρία μέσος τῆς μετανοίας.

Δεύτερον, ἡ μετάνοια καλαγιεύει ἐλπίδα. Ὁπως ἡ δύναμις τῆς χάριτος τοῦ Θεοῦ μᾶς μεταμορφώνεται, καθὼς ἀντλειζαμοβλέπει τῆς ἐνεργείας τῆς ἀποκατάστασις τῆς ζωῆς καὶ περισσότερον μεταλέγεται, καὶ ἡ θερμή τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ Θεοῦ μᾶς ἐνεργεία. Ἡ κραυγὴ τῆς χάριτος τῆς περιόδου, ἡ μετάνοια μᾶς ἀνέγκη στὴν δόξα τῆς ἐλπίδος, γνωρίζοντως ὅτι η ἐλπίς νὰ καθαύνησεν, ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐνεργεία ἐν ταῖς καθαρίσεις ἡ μέρους (Ῥωμ. 5:5).

Τρίτον, ὅπως διὰ τῆς μετανοίας λαμβάνουμε συγγνώμη καὶ χάρη καὶ ως καθαρίσματος ἐλπίδα, ἡ πίστη μας ἐνδυναμώνεται. Καθώς προετοιμάζομας νὰ δοκιμάζουμε τήν ἐκκλησία τῆς ὑποσχέσεως τοῦ Θεοῦ γἀ τῆν ἀνεπάρκεια τῆς θανάτου, τῆς ἀποκατάστασις μας τὴν ζωή, καὶ τὴν κυριεύουσα καὶ τήν ἀνάστασιν, ἡ πίστη μας σὲ Ἐιμινὸν αἰείναι.

Τέλος, σε αὐτή τὴν Ιερὰ περίοδο προσευχής καὶ στοχασμοῦ, ἡ μετάνοια μᾶς δοκιμάζει στὴν σωτηρία. Μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν μετανοία διανοούμενοι οἱ ἐθνικῶν μας, συγκεντρώμουμε ἀπὸ τὸ κατόχο τός τός, ἐτείο ἀποκαλύπτει ἀπὸ τὴν ὕπαρξιν ἡ προετοιμασία σε πράξεις τῆς ἐξούσιας τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπὶ τήν ἀνεπάρκεια τῆς ὑποσχέσεις τοῦ Θεοῦ γἀ τῆν ἀνεπάρκεια τῆς θανάτου, τῆς ἀποκατάστασις μας τὴν ζωή, καὶ τὴν κυριεύουσα καὶ τήν ἀνάστασιν, ἡ πίστη μας σὲ Ἐιμινὸν αἰείναι.

Μετά πατριώτης ἐν Χριστῷ ἄγαπης,

† ὁ Αρχιεπισκόπος Αμερικῆς Δημήτριος

Υπενθύμιση για το 2015!

Αγαπητοί Ενορίες,

Σας παρακαλούμε μη ξεχάσετε να αποτελείτε την ετήσια προσφορά σας για το παρόν (τούτο) το έτος 2015.

Ἡ ετήσια προσφορά σας αποτελεί τη βασικότερη πηγή εισοδήματος για τη συντήρηση καὶ τις καθημερινὲς ανάγκες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας.

Σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά.
Local John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on March 8, 2015

Students in grades 7-12 can participate in this annual event, which will culminate this year with a festival in San Francisco.

Contact eighth grade Sunday school teacher Rhoda Economos

Here are some of the topics...

Junior Division, Grades 7-9

- St. Paul writes, “An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules” (2 Timothy 2:5). Discuss the virtue of honesty in a time when cheating in school, sports and other activities is often reported.
- Malala Yousafzai is an inspirational example of fighting fearlessly for a noble cause in spite of threats against her life. Discuss a young saint or person from the Bible who illustrates such courage.
- Discuss the Orthodox Christian practice of fasting from certain foods and the spiritual discipline it teaches, especially in light of the Lord’s directive in Matthew 6:16-18.
- Several leaders in the political and religious arena have been described as people with a prophetic gift. What really is a prophet? Discuss their actions in light of the Old Testament prophets and in comparison to other contemporary examples.

Senior Division, Grades 10-12

- Psalm 50 (51) begins, “Have mercy on me, O Lord…” It is considered the psalm of repentance. Discuss how praying this psalm might affect our understanding of repentance, confession and forgiveness.
- The St. Nicholas Church at Ground Zero in New York City, which was destroyed on September 11, 2001, will soon be rebuilt. Discuss the way in which this tiny church building will now be a symbol of the universal themes of victory over evil; healing and hope; and being a beacon of Orthodox Christianity.
- Female apostles, martyrs and saints have spread the Gospel and advanced the Church from the beginning of Christianity. Discuss the significance of their roles and examples of all Christians today.
- Using the parable of the poor widow’s offering to the Temple (Luke 21:1-4), discuss the Orthodox Christian attitude of offering to the Church’s ministries.
Thank You to all that attended the Christmas Concert & Dinner

Bowling
Tuesday
March 17, 2015
2—4 pm
Join us at the Westgate Lanes for a fun afternoon of Candlepin Bowling. Or just come and cheer us on and have coffee in the restaurant.

We are all praying and wishing our friend Helen Pollison a quick recovery.
Stewardship

Remember Your Pledge for 2015!

Stewardships are the greatest source of income for our Church

The bricks of our Church support the building. We, as members of this parish, are the “building blocks” that support our many ministries and church events.

Stewardship aids in the development and maintenance of our church and, more specifically, it supports a life in Christ!

We ask you, our families, and individuals, to continue to pledge a portion of your financial treasure to our church and its ministries.

Please feel free to contact the Church Office with any questions.

Thank you kindly

The Stewardship Committee

Parishioners Can Make Donations Using Our Website

Our Online Bill Pay option works like this:

- Go to our church website at http://www.annunciationbrockton.org
- Scroll down the home page.
- Select (left click) one of the 4 Bill Pay options listed and follow links for more information and options.

You can fulfill your Stewardship or make other payments by credit card, including Roof Donations.

Spiritual Wisdom

By the cross death was slain and Adam was restored to life. The cross is the glory of all the apostles, the crown of the martyrs, the sanctification of the saints. By the cross we put on Christ and cast aside our former self. By the cross we, the sheep of Christ, have been gathered into one flock, destined for the sheepfold of heaven.

—St. Theodore the Studite (759-826)

Hymnographer, theologian and abbot of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Studios, outside of Constantinople.
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Sunday School Schedule**

Mar 1  **Sunday of Orthodoxy**—10:15, children participate in procession of icons
Mar 8  Parish level Oratorical festival
Mar 15  **Sunday of the Cross**, classes at 10:15
Mar 22
Mar 29

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**

On Sunday, March 1, the children are welcome to bring their own icons to participate in the **Sunday of Orthodoxy** procession of icons.

Please mark the back of icons with the child’s name and phone number in case the icon is misplaced.

We also have icons for children to use if they choose not to bring their own.

Registration for new students or changes for current students can be made by contacting **Dina Coon** at **781-871-5343**, or by email: **coon005@aol.com**

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**JOY-HOPE**

Our monthly meetings are open to anyone in the church ages 12 and under. We hope to see a strong showing of our church’s youngest members at this year’s events.

We ask that you please RSVP if you plan to attend an event to ensure we have enough supplies and attendees. We are also looking to add an advisor or two to help plan and organize events. If you are interested in becoming an advisor, or to RSVP to an upcoming event please email:

Irena at irena.mroz@verizon.net or Paula at paulatsitsop@comcast.net

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_In Defense of Icons_

*I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter, Who for my sake became matter, and took up His abode in matter, and by means of matter accomplished my salvation.*

- St. John of Damascus
Let’s Go!

We are thinking of taking a trip to New York City for a day over April vacation.

Our Schedule

March 8 weekend
GOYA Winter Camp

March 15
GOYA meeting

Drive for School Supplies

We are having a School Supply Drive this month to collect new items, such as backpacks, books and other supplies needed by students at school.

We plan to also use the money we raised at our fundraiser in February at Discoyo to purchase items for the School on Wheels program.

We also intend to purchase and distribute groceries to Catholic Charities, to serve people in need.

Thanks to all who attended our dance in February!

PHILOPTOCHOS

Koliva
If you are planning a memorial service and would like to order koliva, please call the Church office at 508-559-0910 at least one week in advance of the memorial service. The cost is $85 and checks should be made payable to the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Coffee Hour
If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour, please contact Tina Boutas at 508-588-8891 or call the Church office at 508-559-0910.

Shut-In Visitations
Anyone who would like a visit from the Ladies Philoptochos, please contact the Church office at 508-559-0910.

Membership
Please remember to send your Philoptochos membership ($25.00 annually)

Thank you!
On your LENTEN JOURNEY

We have many items to help move into Lent, from personal inspirational stories to service books that you can use to follow these important services.

A Classic Holy Week book, in Greek & English

Great Lent: Journey to Pascha by Alexander Schmemann

The Tools of Spiritual Warfare

The Lenten Spring offers 40 inspiring meditations on Lent

Visit our collection on Sundays after Church, to borrow or purchase. If we are not present, email us: annunciation.bookstore@gmail.com

Or call the office at 508-559-0910

Incense, censers, vigil lights, pocket prayer books, icons, icon magnets, Orthodox bible, woven bookmarks, stories of Saints, stories for children, booklets, Lenten cookbooks, and more.

For many, if not for the majority of Orthodox Christians, Lent consists of a limited number of formal, predominantly negative, rules and prescriptions...Such is the degree of our alienation from the real spirit of the Church that it is almost impossible for us to understand that there is something else in Lent—something without which all these prescriptions lose much of their meaning.

This "something else" can best be described as an "atmosphere," a "climate" into which one enters, as first of all a state of mind, soul and spirit, which for seven weeks permeates our entire life.

Let us stress once more that the purpose of Lent is not to force on us a few formal obligations, but to "soften" our heart so that it may open itself to the realities of the spirit to experience the hidden "thirst and hunger" for communion with God.

From Great Lent: Journey to Pascha by Alexander Schmemann
We welcome new dancers to the group, and we invite families who are interested to stop by a practice anytime and check us out.

There is no fee for instruction – we ask only for a one-time donation per dancer of $65 to assist in our purchase and maintenance of costumes and accessories, and for each family to commit to assist with food preparation for the group once or twice per year.
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
457 Oak Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Phone - (508) 559-0910
Fax - (508) 584-8679
Email - office@annunciationbrockton.org

We’re on the web!
www.annunciationbrockton.org

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1247 Belmont Street
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